

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of claims is presented below. Please amend currently amended claims as indicated below including substituting clean versions for pending claims with the same number. In addition, clean text versions of pending claims not being currently amended that are under examination are also presented. It is understood that any claim presented in a clean version below has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~black~~ black box testing in a multi-tier application environment comprising:

dividing a multi-tier application into a plurality of tier-specific modules; ~~and~~
testing each of said plurality of tier-specific modules as a black box; and
observing an output of one of said plurality of tier-specific modules.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein an output from a first tier-specific module of said plurality of tier-specific modules is used as input to a subsequent tier-specific module of said plurality of tier-specific modules.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein said output is stored in a computer usable media prior to use as said input.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein said output is stored, prior to said use as said input, for a period of time substantially greater than a time that said output is stored during use of said multi-tier application.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
automatically comparing an output of said first tier-specific module to an input specification of said subsequent tier-specific module;
continuing said testing if said output meets said input specification; and
halting said testing if said output does not meet said input specification.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of tier-specific modules is tested prior to availability of a preceding tier-specific module.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein simulated input is used to test said at least one of said plurality of tier-specific modules.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising performing an end-to-end black box test on said multi-tier application.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said multi-tier application environment comprises a utility data center.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of tier-specific modules executes within a single tier of said multi-tier application environment.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media comprising computer usable instructions that when executed on a computer system implement a method of ~~block~~ black box testing in a multi-tier application environment, said method comprising:

accessing a plurality of tier-specific modules that comprise a multi-tier application; ~~and~~
testing each of said plurality of tier-specific modules as a black box; and
observing an output of one of said plurality of tier-specific modules.

12. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 11 wherein an output from a first tier-specific module of said plurality of tier-specific modules is used as input to a subsequent tier-specific module of said plurality of tier-specific modules.

13. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 12 wherein said output is stored in a computer usable media prior to use as said input.

14. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 12 wherein said output is stored, prior to said use as said input, for a period of time substantially greater than a time that said output is stored during use of said multi-tier application.

15. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 12 further comprising:
automatically comparing an output of said first tier-specific module to an input specification of said subsequent tier-specific module;
continuing said testing if said output meets said input specification; and
halting said testing if said output does not meet said input specification.

16. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 11 wherein at least one of said plurality of tier-specific modules is tested prior to availability of a preceding tier-specific module.

17. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 16 wherein simulated input is used to test said at least one of said plurality of tier-specific modules.

18. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 11 further comprising performing an end-to-end black box test on said multi-tier application.

19. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 11 wherein said multi-tier application environment comprises a utility data center.

20. (Original) The computer readable media of Claim 11 wherein each of said plurality of tier-specific modules executes within a single tier of said multi-tier application environment.

21. (Original) A computer usable media comprising test output from a tier-specific module, wherein said tier-specific module performs a portion of a multi-tier application.